

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4180

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USCINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI AO

SUBJECT: PORTUGESE ARMED FORCES TO DEPART ANGOLA PRIOR TO
NOVEMBER 11 INDEPENDENCE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ANGOLA, ADMIRAL CARDOSO, MADE
AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 18 IN A "MESSAGE TO THE
ANGOLAN PEOPLE" CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF PORTUGESE ARMED
FORCES IN ANGOLA.

2. HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE ARRANGEMENT MADE WITH THE THREE
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THAT THE PORTUGESE FORCES COULD
REMAIN IN ANGOLA UNTIL FEBRUARY 29, 1976, THAT WILL NOT BE
DONE. HAVING SUCH CONFIDENCE IN ANGOLA, ALL PORTUGESE ARMED
FORCES WILL BE WITHDRAWN BEFORE NOVEMBER 11 EXCEPT FOR THOSE
WHICH ANGOLA WISHES TO REMAIN TO ASSIST IN BUILDING ITS OWN
ARMED FORCES.

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3. THE HIGH COMISSIONER CONCLUDED BY ADDRESSING THE "PORTUGESE WHO HAVE DECIDE TO LEAVE" AND ASKED THEM TO THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE DOING SO, THEIR FUTURE WILL BE FULL OF UNCERTAINTIES AND DIFFICULTIES, BUT, HE SAID "I SHALL NOT ASK THEM TO STAY." END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. COMMENT: WITHOUT DOUBT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WILL STIMULATE AN EVEN MORE RAPID DEPARTURE ON THE PART OF MANY PORTUGESE WHO MIGHT HAVE WANTED TO REMAIN A BIT LONGER. PERHAPS UNTIL THE END OF FEBRUARY TO SEE HOW THE NEW ANGOLA" (POST NOV 11) MIGHT SHAPE UP. BUT EXPECT AN INCREASE IN THE TEMPO OF THE EXODUS, FURTHER DETERIORATION ON THE ECONOMIC SCENE. AND MORE RAPID EROSION OF MORALE ON THE PART OF THE REMAINING PORTUGESE COLONIALS.

5. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT PORTUGESE HAVE DECIDED ON EARLIER WITHDRAWAL TO STIMULATE DEPARTTURE OF NEW COLONIALS. KILLORAN

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